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AUG 23 2016

EPA-REGION 10



August 20, 2016

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U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

I am the owner of Steel Stud Choppers, Inc., a commercial construction company that has been in business since 2001. I appreciate the fact that the EPA wants to clean the Willamette River, but I fear its overly aggressive cleanup plan will have a negative impact, and a more subtle approach would work much better. The EPA's plan is based on data from eight and twelve years ago, and it fails to account for the tremendous progress the river has made filtering out contaminants on its own. Nature seems to be better than us at certain things, and we shouldn't interfere with its good work. If there are areas that require immediate attention to protect the public health, those areas can be dredged to solve the problem. As for areas where pollutants are safely buried, natural restoration should be allowed to continue.

Portland is a beautiful city to look at, and if there is heavy machinery obstructing that view for decades, tourism will be affected for the worse. Many people come here in the summer just to enjoy the river, and if the visual blight of dredging equipment turns them away, local businesses will feel the impact. In addition, a lot of our materials come from overseas, including some of the gypsum and metals. If large segments of the river are shut down for non-stop construction, it will disrupt the river boats that deliver our materials and affect our pricing and profitability. It will also slow down the flow of traffic on land, which will impede the work we're doing right now on the river.

I hope the EPA will reconsider its cleanup plan in light of its many flaws. As long as measures are taken to prevent further contamination, the river will clean itself and nature can do a much better job than us.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Owner

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Portland, OR 97224